Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library

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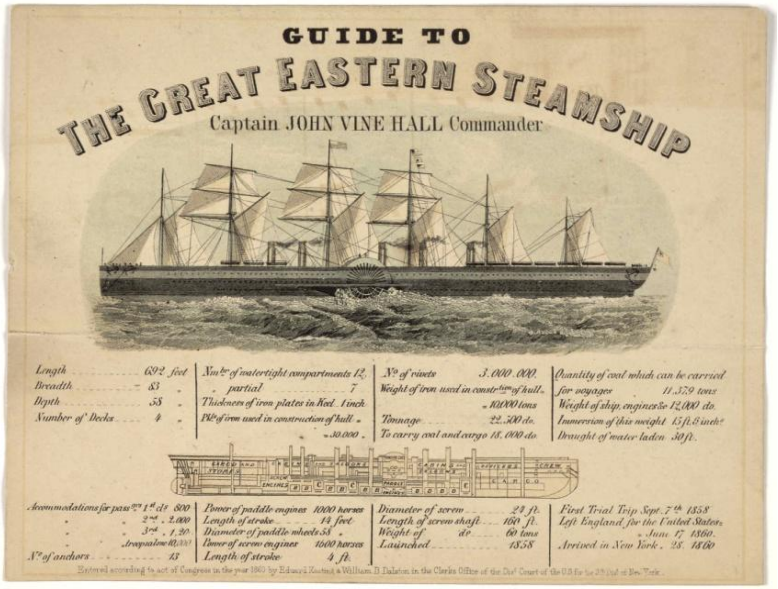
Researching European Ancestors: An Overview

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian



Guide to the Great Eastern Steamship, *advertising leaflet created in New York City about 1860. From American Memory, Library of Congress.*

Virtually every resident of the United States has either come from another country or is descended from people who did. Family origins overseas and the ocean journey here are themes touching the vast majority of American genealogists. But the places our forebears came from and the circumstances behind their arrival differ greatly. Those making the U.S. their new home have come from all over the world. Between the late 16th and early 20th century, the nations of Europe provided millions of people. Each of these countries had a unique culture, political structure, legal system, and a plethora of constantly changing historical conditions. Add these circumstances to scattered records in different languages, and the silence of those eager to forget the old country and make a fresh start, and you have the ingredients for countless brick walls. But don't despair. There are many resources for learning how to trace European ancestry, and it's becoming increasingly easier.

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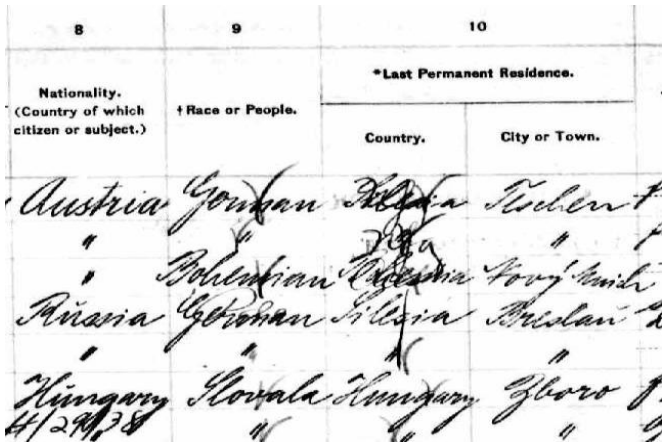
The Journey Here: Passenger Lists

Passenger lists are best understood within the context of U.S. law, which changed dramatically over time. Whenever the law changed, so did the records, including who created them, what they contained, and how they were kept. Prior to 1820, there was no law requiring authorities of seagoing vessels to create lists of incoming passengers. Lists were created, but by many different entities, scattered far and wide. Original lists are rare, but many have survived in published form. The most centralized resource for passenger lists before 1820 is the *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* (PILI), a multi-volume, annually updated work indexing thousands of separate sources. Another useful source, covering British immigrants 1607 – 1776, is *The Complete Book of Emigrants*.

In 1819, the federal government passed a law requiring centralized recordkeeping of immigrant arrivals, to start January 1, 1820. Because of this, the National Archives holds microfilmed passenger lists created after this date. They are arranged first by port and then chronologically by arrival, so if you were to research the microfilm, you'd need to know the port where your ancestor arrived and the approximate year. Knowing the port is usually the toughest obstacle. New York City was the most heavily used port of arrival during this time, but Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, and New Orleans were also common points of entry, and there were dozens of smaller ports.

Fortunately, indexes and digitized images of passenger lists for the major ports are available in online databases. New York's Castle Garden was the first official U.S. immigration center, followed by Ellis Island, which opened in 1892. Both institutions' Web sites maintain searchable databases of immigrants. Ancestry offers another index of New York arrivals as well as databases covering the other major ports. Other useful online resources are the Immigrant Ships Transcribers' Guild and TheShipsList.

The information in passenger lists until the mid-1890s is scanty at best. Name, gender, age, occupation and country of origin were the only data recorded, making it difficult to know when you've located the right ancestor. Using cluster research, or following the "FAN club" principle (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors), is the best way to break down brick walls like these. This means studying not only the family as a whole and collateral relatives, but also the records of people surrounding your family. Their records might reveal clues that your family's records don't have. This technique requires a great deal of perseverance. One direction might lead to a dead end, but another approach might give surprising results. There is no way to find out until you pursue it. In doing so, you are almost certain to learn more than you thought possible, and discover answers to questions you didn't think to ask. With a cluster approach, you'll come away with a much broader understanding of your ancestors and their lives.



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Nationality. (Country of which citizen or subject.)	†Race or People.	*Last Permanent Residence. Country.	City or Town.
Austria	Gorman		
"	Bohemian		
Russia	Gorman		
"	"		
Hungary	Slovak	Hungary	

This passenger list, created in 1909, shows the last permanent residence of the immigrant. From the Ancestry database New York, Passenger Lists, 1820 – 1957.

Research in the Old World

What matters in real estate matters in genealogy: It's all about location. Knowing precisely where European immigrants were from, down to a district, parish, or village, can reveal records unlocking the door to several previous generations. Finding this exact place is the primary task, but it can be very difficult, especially in the period when birthplaces or last residences were not recorded on passenger lists.

It's important to start with what can be found on this side of the "pond," including records generated in the U.S. and those available in online databases. One of the advantages of database searching is the ability to enter names and dates and try several options for locations, or leaving location fields blank. If you know enough about the family, you might be able to find overseas records through Ancestry and FamilySearch. Database searching alone, however, often confronts us with mixed results or no results. It's best to collect as many documents created in the U.S. as possible, such as obituaries, military, naturalization and marriage records, wills and estate documents, for clues to a specific residence or birthplace. If you're not finding answers in your family's records, it's time to cast the net more widely and research the FAN club.

Understanding geography is a large part of the research process, since boundaries and place names have gone through many changes. Studying maps, atlases and gazetteers will be essential in determining your ancestors' origins and understanding their lives. The Library database Historic Map Works has a significant collection of maps of continental Europe. Other Web sites with excellent historical maps are the Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) and the Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection at the University of Texas.

If you're able to pin down the family's roots to a particular place, revisit FamilySearch, Ancestry and Family History Library microfilm to see what records are available for that location. Church records and civil archives in the place where the family was from will most likely be the greatest sources of information, but often, these are the records that haven't yet been put online or on microfilm. Location of records, access policies and cost considerations are different for every country, and it may take some time to understand the situation in the place you're researching. FamilySearch's Wiki is a great place to begin exploring how to do research in various countries.

The language barrier is often a genealogist's most pressing concern, but the difficulty can be eased with some effort. Learning a little about your ancestors' language is a wonderful way to learn about them, and mastering some common phrases found in records will put you ahead of the game. Print dictionaries and guides and digital translation tools such as Google Translate can be very useful. Some Web sites of foreign archives, such as the Polish National Archives, allow some Web page translation into English (click on the British flag).

Of course, the most powerful way to learn about your family's story is to make the return journey back to their home. If this is an option, it's important to do as much research as possible beforehand, so that your limited time is well spent. Not everyone can take this step, but we are still incredibly fortunate. Our digital revolution has resulted in far more resources and options for virtual visits than our ancestors ever dreamed of.

Don't let the complexity of immigrant genealogy stop you from pursuing it. Take advantage of the many free or low-cost resources available, including manuals on immigrant research, Web sites, FamilySearch's Learning Center, and our own classes and research guides. Allow plenty of time to learn and absorb this fascinating topic. It could take a long time to find answers to your questions. Make peace with uncertainty, and be open to learning whatever you can. Researching the first in our families to set foot in America is challenging, but it is often the most rewarding work a family historian will do.

"Discovering Your Immigrant Ancestors" on August 3

Want to know more about tracing your family's immigrant history? You won't want to miss "Discovering Your Immigrant Ancestors," held in the Main Library Auditorium on Saturday, August 3, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. This FREE program, produced in cooperation with the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, will feature lectures by expert genealogists Lisa A. Alzo and Leslie Albrecht Huber covering topics such as Eastern and Western European research and the immigrant experience. For more information, please visit our Web site. To sign up, contact Special Collections at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

New on Summit Memory: Pockrandt Collection

by Christina Bober, Practicum Student

The Pockrandt Collection, the newest addition to Summit Memory, contains over 50 photographs that showcase Akron's history over numerous decades. Digitized in cooperation with the Summit County Historical Society, these photos represent a small portion of a vast photo collection once owned by former Historical Society president Carl H. Pockrandt. The earliest images in the digital exhibit date back to the late nineteenth century, and the most recent images are from the 1960s and 1970s. While the collection consists mostly of photographs within the city limits of Akron, there are several other locations including Stow, Bath, Green, and Springfield. Also included are images of buildings, people, parades, rubber companies, and construction of parts of downtown Akron that are easily recognizable today.

There are some unusual photographs in the collection worth mentioning. The first is an image of the High Level Bridge from 1926. This bridge built in 1915 connected Akron and Cuyahoga Falls from North Howard Street to State Road. The bridge was replaced by a new High Level Bridge in 1949, connecting Akron and Cuyahoga Falls from North Main Street to State Road. The majority of images that depict the bridge show the view looking to the north; that is, standing in Akron looking toward Cuyahoga Falls. This image shows the opposite view, looking from Cuyahoga Falls south into Akron. The Pockrandt Collection contains several photographs of the bridge, but this view is unique.

Another image that stands out in the collection is an image of the photographer in action. While there is a portrait of Mr. Pockrandt in the collection, this image shows Mr. Pockrandt taking photographs in Summit Beach Park. The amusement park was especially popular in the 1920s, and it closed in 1958. The image is of Mr. Pockrandt taking a photograph of a small woman standing on a box in front of the park's midway. This is the only photograph in the collection that shows Mr. Pockrandt at work.

Finally, one of the most significant photographs in the collection is an interior snapshot of the *Akron Beacon Journal* on December 7, 1941. This is the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor that caused the United States to enter World War II. The photograph shows men and women at their desks after 8 pm preparing the headlines for the next day. This historic moment, captured by camera as it happened, can now be seen online in this collection.

The Akron Beacon Journal *newsroom, December 7, 1941. From the Summit County Historical Society's Pockrandt Collection.*

These are but a few of the exquisite photographs contained in the Pockrandt Collection, and there is much more to discover. We would like to thank the Summit County Historical Society for making this digital exhibit possible.

Getting to Know... Carl H. Pockrandt

by Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian

Carl H. Pockrandt's pursuit of all things Akron and Summit County history generated a lasting legacy still enjoyed today. The lifetime resident affectionately nicknamed "Mr. Akron" spent the majority of his 95 years in the city collecting and cataloging local history. For 20 years he served as president of the Summit County Historical Society, and is credited with a central role in the acquisition of both the Simon Perkins mansion and the John Brown house.

Founder and owner of Pockrandt Paint and Supply Co., Mr. Pockrandt belonged to numerous local organizations and even served on the Akron Planning Commission. His dedication to the preservation of Akron history likely drove his passion for photography and collecting historic photographs, of which he would amass a collection in the thousands during his lifetime. At the time of his death in 1980, more than 60,000 photographs, postcards and negatives—many captured by the man himself—along with newspaper clippings and correspondence, made up his one-of-a-kind collection. So encompassing was the collection during his lifetime that it even served to provide illustration for Karl Grismer's 1952 tome *Akron and Summit County.*

Carl Pockrandt about 1950. From the Summit County Historical Society's Pockrandt Collection.

Pockrandt's collection offered a huge contribution to the photographic documentation of Akron and Summit County history, preserving a glimpse into the past that might long since have been lost if not for his dedication. His efforts during his 20-year tenure at the Historical Society boosted membership to record levels, and it was only fitting that following his death his good friend Henrietta Young saw to it that his substantial collection found a permanent home with the Summit County Historical Society.

Today, the Pockrandt Collection is housed with the archives of the Historical Society in the Special Collections Division. Here, his life's passion for local history remains an indispensible resource.

Looking for sources about local history? Don't forget the Local History Database, the index to our archival materials. You're welcome to stop by any time we're open to view these items. To have them ready for you, contact us ahead of your visit.

Aultman, Miller & Co.: An Early Akron Industry

by Michael Elliott, Public Service Assistant (ret'd.)

Akron's industrial history has been primarily focused on the tire and rubber industry, and rightfully so. However, before Akron became known as the "Rubber Capital of the World," our city was home to numerous cottage industries. These include barrel-making, canal boat construction, clay products, brick making, matches and stoves for both cooking and heating. But perhaps Akron's largest and most important industry in the late 1800s was in the twin agricultural implement shops operated by Lewis Miller and John Seiberling.

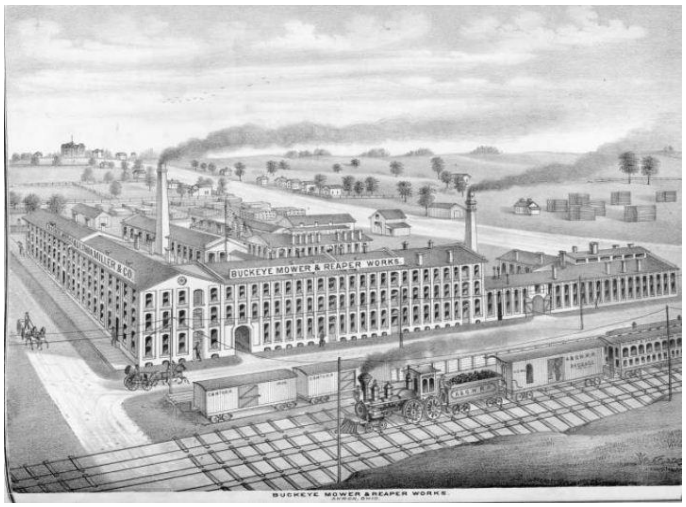
Summit County native Lewis Miller (1829-1899) was an accomplished mechanic, designer and inventor in his own right. The future father-in-law of Thomas Edison devised, improved and patented agricultural machinery that revolutionized the harvesting of grass and grain crops in the second half of the 19th century. Along with his foster brother Cornelius Aultman, Miller and other partners established Ball, Aultman & Co. in Canton in 1852, producing mechanical harvesters based on a design by Ephraim Ball. The entire production in that first year in Canton totaled a modest 25 machines. It was an inauspicious beginning to be sure, but things were about to change.

Fast forward four years later to 1856. The demand for their products was increasing. The firm now began to produce in substantial numbers the harvester of Miller's own improved design, which he had dubbed the "Buckeye" in honor of the state in which it was invented and of which he was a native. The name stuck, and over time all of Miller's designs would be prefaced with the name Buckeye. Even the factory later built in Akron would be called the "Buckeye," although the official name of the plant would always remain Aultman, Miller & Co. Production grew rapidly, and very shortly capacity at the Canton plant was reached and additional space was clearly needed if the business was to continue to thrive.

Enter Akron resident John Buchtel, the chief supplier of lumber to the firm in Canton and a large

stockholder in the company. Buchtel lobbied for Aultman's proposed expansion into Akron where railroad shipping rates, made exorbitant by the Civil War, were more reasonable. There was some discussion of building the new facility in Cleveland, but due to Buchtel's influence and more importantly the closer proximity to Canton, Akron was chosen. John Buchtel eventually became president of the factory in Akron, while Lewis Miller was made production superintendent at both facilities. Under their supervision the Aultman, Miller & Co. grew quickly.

The *Summit County Beacon* of August 13, 1863 happily announced that a "new enterprise in Akron" was to be constructed in the city. "C. Altman [sic] & Co. of Canton have concluded to start the business of manufacturing agricultural implements in Akron on an extensive scale." Later in the same column it was noted that "there is some talk also of Messrs. Cline, Seiberling and Hower, of Doylestown, establishing themselves at this point for the manufacture of their Excelsior Combined Reaper and Mower." Eventually known as the "Empire works," this factory was located just north of the Buckeye plant along the railroad tracks.



The Aultman, Miller & Co. Buckeye Mower and Reaper Works. From the Combination Atlas Map of Summit County, *1874*.

On October 5, 1865, the *Summit County Beacon* reported that the two branches of the company had been independently incorporated. The Canton shop would focus on producing threshers, while the Akron branch would build the Buckeye mower. In all, 8,000 units were produced that year with the majority built in the new facility in Akron. Situated directly alongside the railroad, with the canal a stone's throw away, the Buckeye works had easy access to raw materials and could ship its products all over the world with relative ease.

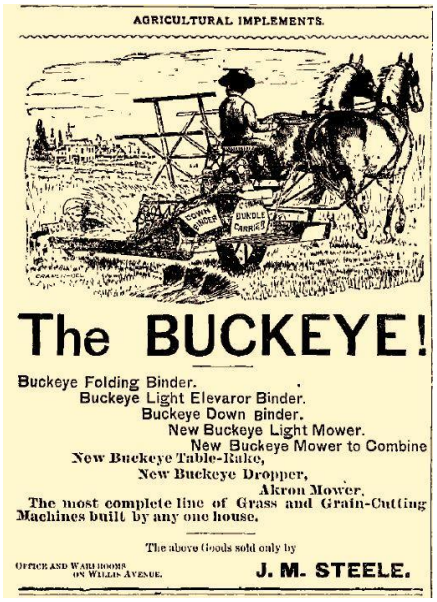
Assembling the various machines was no easy task, each having a multitude of parts. An added benefit of the Buckeye Works establishment in Akron was the supporting auxiliary industries that were located here as well. The Akron Knife Works cut reaper bars, the Akron Twine and Cordage Co. manufactured binder twine, and the Akron Iron Co. made iron castings for parts. They employed hundreds of workers. The Akron Knife Works, for instance, was conveniently located between Buchtel and Carroll streets – just south of the Buckeye plant. The other supporting industries were also nearby, each interdependent on the others.

The Civil War created a ravenous demand for foodstuffs to supply the armies in the field. Northern farmers were demanding – and getting – higher prices for their products than ever before. With surplus funds on their hands, every farmer wanted the most modern equipment then available to simplify their labor. As a consequence, starting in the 1860s the firm usually could not produce enough mowers and reapers to meet the demand. By the early 1880s, orders for both Buckeye and Empire mowers, harvesters and threshers skyrocketed. It remained that way for the next quarter of a century, making the farm machinery business a very lucrative one indeed.

Lewis Miller was a man ahead of his time. A progressive employer, he implemented the nine-hour work day in Akron, minimizing the time an employee spent at the plant and away from his family. Furthermore, both Miller at the Buckeye and Seiberling at the Empire paid comparatively good wages – more than double that being paid by O.C. Barber at his Diamond Match Co., Akron's next largest employer at the time. This money paid out as wages stayed in Akron, enabling sturdy new houses and improved city infrastructure. Akron grew and became a "modern" city. On December 3, 1892, the *Akron Beacon & Republican* printed a supplement to the newspaper outlining various business interests

in Akron. Regarding the Buckeye Works, the newspaper related that "it requires a small army of constantly employed men to construct the 50,000 Buckeye mowers necessary to supply the annual demand, and…the sales from the Aultman, Miller & Co. Works have aggregated almost a million." Production had become so streamlined that a clearly impressed Samuel Lane fairly gushed in his 1892 history of Summit County that the Buckeye Works was able to turn out "one complete machine every four and one-half minutes during working hours." Manufacturing quality was so high that Buckeye implements built in Akron became globally known. As Lewis Miller's own biography boasted, "somewhere on Earth there were Buckeye machines at work every month in the year."

The article went on to note that "the demand for Buckeye Harvesting Machinery has been so great…the company has been thousands of machines short during the past two years." As in Canton years before, production capacity had been reached. The response was an expansion including new building construction and machine retooling, which was projected to boost production by at least a third. Business had never been better, and by all indications the future looked even more promising. Unfortunately, the timing could hardly have been worse.


AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

The BUCKEYE!

Buckeye Folding Binder.
Buckeye Light Elevaror Binder.
Buckeye Down Binder.
New Buckeye Light Mower.
New Buckeye Mower to Combine
New Buckeye Table-Rake,
New Buckeye Dropper,
Akron Mower,
The most complete line of Grass and Grain-Cutting Machines built by any one house.

The above Goods sold only by

OFFICE AND WAREROOMS ON WILLIS AVENUE. J. M. STEELE.

Buckeye products had a wide reach. This advertisement appeared on July 2, 1886, in the Perry, Iowa newspaper Perry Chief.

Early the following year the bottom fell out of the economy. The depression of 1893, or "panic" as it was then called, was the most severe in American history up to that time and only grew worse the following year. Hundreds of banks failed, and thousands of businesses closed their doors. The supply of money slowed to a trickle. Many farmers throughout the Midwest had bought their Buckeye-produced machinery on credit and were unable to make payment on their purchase. In addition, greatly reduced orders resulted in a revenue shortage. Nevertheless, Lewis Miller was able to financially prop up the shops in Akron and continue to operate by offering up his considerable stock holdings as collateral with creditors.

By 1899, Miller's health was failing, and he had lost two children the preceding year. Together, these events seemed to sap his strength, and he died shortly after a surgical procedure. The business Miller knew so well and ran so effectively survived him – but only barely. Production muddled on for a year or so, but by the turn of the century the writing was clearly on the wall. The *Akron Beacon Journal* of April 5, 1903 carried the sad headline "In Receivers' Hands," announcing the company had declared bankruptcy. The column noted with resignation that "the move was not an unexpected one, as it has been known for some months that the company had been in embarrassed circumstances." That same day, an editorial was printed in the newspaper lamenting the situation and accurately noting "for many years this institution was the leading industry in the city and has done more to build up Akron than any other single institution." A few months later, the end came when the International Harvester Co. initiated efforts to purchase the property. Court cases occupied the next few months, but the *Beacon Journal* of November 7, 1905 reported that the sale was complete. With a note of finality it announced, "The harvesting machinery plant and the cordage plant as well as all the property owned by the Aultman, Miller Buckeye Co. has passed into the hands of the International Harvester Company."

After the sale became final, the part of the complex built in 1892 was remodeled and retooled by International Harvester to manufacture the "auto-buggy," a forerunner of the pickup truck. Sales were brisk, and International Harvester continued to build various model trucks in Akron through 1925, when the obsolete plant was permanently closed down. What was left of the complex was razed in 1927 in

anticipation of the construction of a new railroad passenger depot. This was not opened until 1950, having been delayed by the Depression and World War II.

What signaled the end of the agricultural implement business in Akron? There was more than one reason. The panic of 1893 seriously wounded the business, although a modest recovery was made in the following years. Competition with other manufacturers of farm machinery in the late 1880s was much greater than it had been 20 years before. The firm certainly lost energy and suffered greatly with the death of Lewis Miller. But the final, overriding cause that sounded the death knell for Aultman, Miller & Co. was the internal combustion engine. Self-propelled gasoline powered farm tractors, which replaced the crude and dangerous steam powered "traction engines," began to appear in the early 20th century. Almost immediately, the demand for newly built horse drawn harvesters fell to such a level that business was no longer sustainable.

The original Buckeye plant built during the Civil War was completely destroyed in a fire on December 28, 1912. Ironically, the conflagration was fed by improperly stored gasoline used to fill the tanks of the newly built trucks. The rubble was cleared away, and the area sat idle for a number of years until it was purchased by the University. Today, it's the site of the E. J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall and other University of Akron buildings. And what became of the hundreds of employees in the Buckeye and Empire factories who now found themselves unemployed? They went to work for the burgeoning rubber companies, helping to build tires for which Akron has since become so well known.

Summer in Summit: Silver Lake Park

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

Summertime fun – that's what thousands of daily visitors found at Silver Lake Park. Today, it's difficult to imagine that the "Coney Island of the West" operated in Summit County in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The resort's beginnings were modest. Ralph Hugh Lodge bought the lake for $1300 in 1874. Previously, the lake was called Wetmore's Pond after Judge William Wetmore, who built a home near the lake. It was also called Stow's Pond, named after Joshua Stow, founder of the town of Stow. Lodge changed the name to Silver Lake because of the way the lake glimmered in the moonlight. He purchased land surrounding the lake and created Silver Lake Park in 1876.

At first, Lodge provided recreational space and cabins for some fishermen, boaters, and swimmers. He added a small dance hall in 1879. A store, animal exhibits, a fountain and other features were later added. There were campgrounds and hotel rooms. Hotel room and board and furnished five-room cabins rented for $2 a day; a furnished seven-room Swiss cottage rented for $2.50. Park admission was $.05.

Business boomed with the offering of train excursions by the Cleveland, Akron, and Columbus Railroad and access from Akron and Cleveland interurbans. People as far away as Columbus and Pittsburgh travelled to Silver Lake. Daily visitors were numbered at 10,000. A staunch Methodist, Lodge did not open the park on Sundays and prohibited liquor and gambling in the park. Flasks that had been thrown into the lake before guests landed at the park have been the most commonly found artifact in recent years.

A postcard showing the pavilion at Silver Lake Park. From Summit Memory.

There was plenty to do at Silver Lake, including an aquarium that was the first in Ohio, and a zoo featuring 40 animal specimens. The rollercoaster, dance hall, steamboat rides, merry-go-round, baseball games, horse and auto races, famous speakers and entertainers, fireworks, toboggan slide, miniature train and other attractions awaited the masses. A much larger dance hall was included when a huge pavilion was built. The dance floor of 15,000 square feet was said to have been the largest in Ohio at the time it opened. It occupied the second floor of the pavilion and featured an orchestra platform suspended from the ceiling over the middle of the floor. Dining hall concessions were operated by the MacDonald family, who established the Canteen Restaurant on State Road, and a lunchroom was operated by the Spindler family, who opened Spindler's Inn on Hudson Drive.

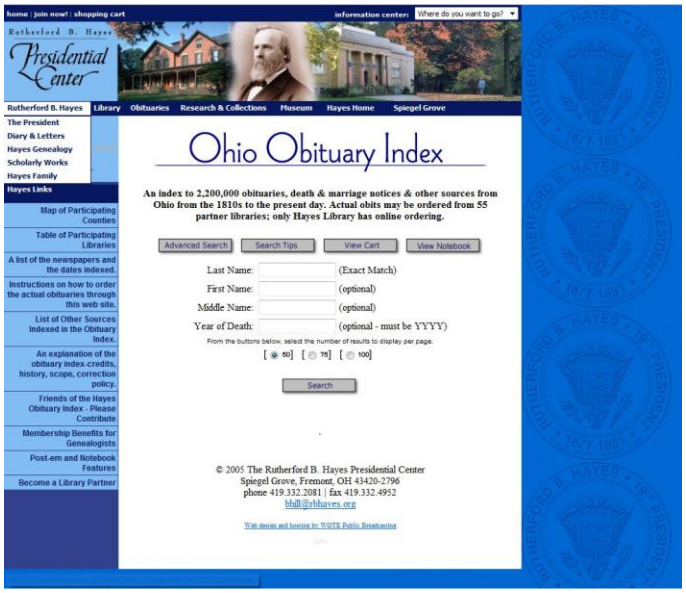
Ralph Lodge died in 1907, and his son William took over the operation and expansion of the business. Summit County's first aviation field and bowling alley were located at Silver Lake Park. When the Flood of 1913 destroyed the Summit County Fairgrounds on East North Street, the fair was moved to Silver Lake. The park's decline began with the start of World War I and the cancellation of all excursions by railroads. This cut two-thirds of the park's business. The park closed in 1917, and William Lodge sold the property for residential development. The Village of Silver Lake was incorporated in 1918, and William Lodge served as its first mayor.

Ohio Obituary Index Update

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

In January, the Akron-Summit County Public Library joined the Hayes Research Library's Ohio Obituary Index. Special Collections creates records for current *Akron Beacon Journal* obituaries daily. As time allows, we also add records for deaths included in the Akron Beacon Journal newspaper indexes, 1841-1939. In the first three months, we added nearly 19,000 records to the database. A handful of volunteer indexers have been trained, and they are adding records from the Obituary only indexes, 1937-2012.

At present, the Ohio Obituary Index includes entries for local obituaries from the following years: 1841-51, 1860-65, 1870, 1873-84, 1886-88 and 2013. It's a good start, but it will likely take several years before all of the data is either imported or entered. Until then, feel free to contact Special Collections or visit the Hayes Web site to see which years are covered in the Ohio Obituary Index, and continue to use the indexes on our Web site as needed.


Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center
Ohio Obituary Index
An index to 2,200,000 obituaries, death & marriage notices & other sources from Ohio from the 1810s to the present day. Actual obits may be ordered from 55 partner libraries; only Hayes Library has online ordering.
Advanced Search
Search Tips
View Cart
View Notebook
Last Name:
First Name:
Middle Name:
Year of Death:
Search

Obviously, the more people who help with this enormous task, the more quickly there will be a single, fully searchable index to local obituaries. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Cheri in Special Collections. Volunteers must have computer skills and be detail oriented. Written instructions and hands-on training will be provided. Once trained, you can work from home.

On Display in Special Collections: "Meet Me at the Fair"

The Summit County Fair has been a post-summer attraction since 1850. Be sure to stop by Special Collections to see fair photographs and memorabilia from the collections of the library and the Summit County Historical Society, on display from July through September.

Lock 3 Park and the Akron History Exhibit

This summer marks the 11th year for Lock 3 Park in Downtown Akron. Situated adjacent to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath trail in downtown Akron, Lock 3 is the site of family-friendly concerts and community events from May through September. It is a gathering spot for people of all ages and the summertime jewel of downtown.

A special feature of Lock 3 Park is the Akron History Exhibit and American Toy Marble Museum devoted to Akron's remarkable past. Managed by the Summit County Historical Society and the City of Akron, the museum features local history exhibits created by various museum partners including the Akron-Summit County Public Library, University of Akron Archival Services, Lighter-Than-Air Society, Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, The Shirla McClain Gallery and more. New exhibits for the summer include "Akron Firsts," "The Akron Sound" and the airship USS *Shenandoah*. Come and be surprised! The museum is free to the public and open during most Lock 3 events beginning Memorial Day weekend: Fridays, 5-8:30 pm, Saturdays, 11 am – 1 pm, and during concerts on Saturdays, 6 – 8:30 pm. For more information visit Lock 3's Web site: www.lock3live.com/.

Special Collections Class Schedule

For more information and to sign up, contact us at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Finding Your Family in the U.S. Census
Saturday, June 29, 10 am – noon
United States census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us to learn more about using these valuable records in your family research. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2, First Floor, Main Library.

Internet Genealogy
Saturday, July 13, 10 am – noon
There are an overwhelming number of Web sites for genealogy research. This class will provide tips for locating online resources for family history research and allow participants some class time to explore Web sites. Sessions are held in Computer Lab 2, First Floor, Main Library.

Using Ancestry in Your Genealogy Research
Saturday, July 27, 10 am – noon
Ancestry is the premier online genealogy resource, and it's available to you for free within any ASCPL location. This workshop will introduce you to the many features of Ancestry Library Edition and show you how to do efficient and effective searches. This workshop meets in Computer Lab 2, First Floor, Main Library.

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors
Saturday, August 17, 10 am – noon
Most of us will find immigrant ancestors somewhere in our family tree. Join us for a discussion of identifying immigrant ancestors and locating passenger lists and naturalization records. This class meets in Computer Lab 2, First Floor, Main Library.

Getting Started in Family History
Saturday, September 7, 10 am – noon
Join the Special Collections Division for an introduction to genealogy for new family historians. This class includes an overview of genealogical sources available at the Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. This class is held in Meeting Room 1, High Street Level, Main Library.

Getting Started in African American Genealogy
Saturday, September 14, 10 am – noon
Do you want to trace your African American family tree? Not sure how or where to begin? The Special Collections Division presents a two-hour session for genealogy beginners who have a specific interest in African American ancestral research. This class meets in Meeting Room 1, High Street Level, Main Library.

Summit County OGS Events

For more information, please see www.summitogs.org/events.php.

Unlocking the Keystone State: Key Resources and Repositories for Pennsylvania Research
Presented by Chris Staats
Saturday, July 20, 1 – 3 pm
"Unlocking the Keystone State" presents an overview of the most commonly used Pennsylvania records, where to find them and how to use them. More and more resources are becoming available online and access to those that aren't is easier than ever. Chris' presentation will help open the gateway to your Pennsylvania research.

Research in Progress: The Naturalization of John J. Hanson
Saturday, September 21, 1 – 3 pm
Presented by Jane Gramlich
Naturalization documents are often difficult to find and understand, but FamilySearch is making it easier. Jane, Special Collections Librarian at the Akron-Summit County Library, will present a case study of how she searched for an ancestor's naturalization and what she learned in the process.

Civil War Commemorative Events

From now through 2015, Summit County will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Ohio's involvement in the Civil War. For more information about events here and throughout the state, visit www.ohiocivilwar150.org.

150 Civil War Commemoration
Summit County Historical Society
Saturday, June 15, 11 am - 4 pm
550 Copley Rd., Akron
www.summithistory.org

Vicksburg, the Other Gettysburg
Presented by D. J. Reiser
Friends of Green Branch Library
Saturday, June 29, 3 pm
Green Branch Library
4046 Massillon Rd., Uniontown, 44685

Civil War Lecture Series
Peninsula Valley Historic & Education Foundation
Thursdays, 7 pm
June 27: "Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain," presented by William F. B. Vodrey
July 25: "The Bard of the Battlefield: Walt Whitman's Civil War," presented by Carol Zeh
August 22: "Billy Yank: The Life of a Soldier," presented by Mark Holbrook
GAR Hall
1785 Main Street (Route 303)
Peninsula, Ohio 44264
330-657-2528
www.peninsulahistory.org

War of 1812 Commemorative Events

Although 2012 marked the 200th anniversary of the commencement of the War of 1812, the war did not end until 1815. Communities throughout Ohio continue to commemorate this conflict with ceremonies and remembrances. For more information about events taking place in our state, visit the Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission http://warof1812.ohio.gov. For information about local events and projects, visit the William Wetmore Chapter Daughters of 1812 site at http://sharonmyers1.tripod.com.

War of 1812 in Summit County
Presented by Sharon Myers
Tuesday, June 25, 7 pm
Highland Square Branch Library
807 West Market St., Akron

Trolley Tour of 1812 Veterans' Graves
Summit County Historical Society and Metro Parks Serving Summit County
Tuesday, July 9, 7 pm
Glendale Cemetery
150 Glendale Ave., Akron
www.summithistory.org

Heroines of the War of 1812
Presented by Sharon Myers
Thursday, July 11, 7 pm
Richfield Historical Society
3907 Broadview Rd., Richfield

Stow Cemetery War of 1812 Veterans Ceremony
William Wetmore Chapter Daughters of 1812
Saturday, July 20, 10:30 am
Stow Cemetery
3162 Kent Rd., Stow

Green Township War of 1812 Veterans Ceremony
William Wetmore Chapter Daughters of 1812
Monday, August 19, 7 pm
Greensburg Cemetery
4890 Thursby Rd., North Canton

War of 1812 Commemoration
Saturday, September 21, 11 am - 4 pm
Summit County Historical Society
550 Copley Rd., Akron
www.summithistory.org

New to the Collection

Alabama
Barbour County tomb records
Bible records of Montgomery County and surrounding counties
Early land patents of Montgomery County
Resting in peace: The Barbour County photographic tomb records

Delaware
Tombstones of Sussex County

District of Columbia
Dead people on the move! Reconstruction of the Georgetown Presbyterian burying ground…

Georgia
Georgia research: A handbook for genealogists, historians, archivists…

Illinois
Chicago and the old Northwest, 1673-1835

Indiana
Cedar Grove Cemetery inscriptions
Centennial farms of Indiana
Early Indiana trails and surveys
Finding Indiana ancestors
Indiana Quakers confront the Civil War
Indiana's African American heritage
The Irish
The Miami Indians of Indiana: A persistent people, 1654-1994
The Native Americans
Peopling Indiana: The ethnic experience
Personal recollections of W. J. Knox: Indiana pioneer and Civil War soldier
St. Joseph Polish Cemetery: Inscriptions from the "old section"

Kentucky
Breckinridge County history
Green County abstracts of deed
Greenup marriages
Hardin County guardian bonds, 1839-1925
Hopkins County births, 1911-1920
LaRue County newspaper abstracts
Lewis County Historical Society cemetery book
Lewis County Historical Society marriage record
Meade County newspaper abstracts, July 1856-December 1905
Vital statistics, Hopkins County deaths 1911-1927

Maryland
Abstracts of the debt books of the Provincial Land Office of Maryland: St. Mary's County
Frederick County chronicles: The crossroads of Maryland
Frederick County marriage references and family relationships: 1748-1800
Frederick County naturalizations
Garfield Heights history (Frederick Co.)
Genealogical and memorial encyclopedia of the state of Maryland
Land grants in Anne Arundel County, 1650-1704
Western Maryland Catholics: 1819-1851

Massachusetts
Research in Essex County

Michigan
Duplain Cemetery, Duplain Township, Clinton County
East Side Cemetery and West Side Cemetery in Hubbardston
Elsie Village Cemetery (Clinton County)
Ford Cemetery (Gratiot County)

Genesee County cemeteries
Lyons Township Cemetery, Ionia County
Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid
North Plains Cemetery (Ionia County)
North Star Cemetery, North Star Township, Gratiot County
Reed Cemetery, Laingsburg, Victor Township, Shiawassee County
Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, Clinton County
Tuttle Cemetery, Ionia County

Mississippi

A history lover's guide to Mississippi
Lafayette County will abstracts, 1836-1898
Marriage bonds of Lafayette County

New Jersey

Historical collections of the state of New Jersey
Inscriptions on the tomb stones and monuments in the graveyards at Whippany and Hanover…
Salem County wills, 1804-1840

New York

Book of the freeholders: Persons qualified to serve for struck juries, Albany County, 1797
Cemetery inscriptions of Madison County
Centennial address relating to the early history of Schenectady and its first settlers
Early records of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Albany, Albany County
Eighteenth century persons of Albany City and County, New York, 1726-circa 1762
Granville cemetery inscriptions, Washington County

North Carolina

Davie County cemeteries
Index to vital statistics death records Gaston County, 1913-1956
Lincoln County index to vital statistics: death, 1913-1992
WPA cemetery list of Cleveland County

Ohio

Beamsville Cemetery (Darke County)
Birth records, 1867-1880 (Fayette County)
Birth records of Henry County
Blue Jacket Cemetery, Logan County
Cemetery inscriptions of Monroe County: Salem Township and Malaga Township
Champaign County land deed indices
Champaign County newspaper abstracts, 1889-1894
Champaign County probate court records of births, 1867-1877 and 1878-July 1884
Champaign County records of deaths and burials
Civil War veteran discharges of Perry County
Cleveland's dynamic transit heritage: Commemorating the first 10 years of RTA
A compilation of Holmes County soldiers' burial information
Coshocton County death records index
Darke County divorce cases, 1817-1899
Defiance County marriages
Delayed birth records and corrections, Clinton County
Fairfield County birth records
Fairfield County deaths
Greene County marriage records
Hardin County marriage records
Harlem Township: Spanish American War; World War I… (Delaware County)
Harlem Township Cemetery: 3 books
Harlem Township in World War II
Harlem Township schools
History of the Pickaway County schools
History of Van Wert and Mercer counties: With illustrations and biographical sketches…
Index to families of Darke County
Index to the history of northwestern Ohio, History of Paulding County…
Jackson County land and chattel tax lists: 1819 through 1826
Letters from the Civil War: Paulding County 14th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
Miller Funeral Home records, 1951-1993, Greenville (Darke County)
Naturalizations in Defiance County: Index
Obituaries taken from *The Deshler Flag* (Henry County)
The Peter Will streetcars of Cleveland
Pickaway County ancestor charts, 2012
River on a rampage: The 1936 flood from Chester to Marietta
Riverside Cemetery interments: Defiance
St. John's Lutheran Church, Marblehead: Baptismal records, 1912-1935
There's no school like an old school: An illustrated history of the public schools (Marion County)
Veterans buried in Medina County

Pennsylvania

The chronicles of Middletown
Friedrich Heinrich Gelwicks, shoemaker and distiller: Accounts, 1760-1783…
History of Greene County, 2 volumes
Local history of Greene County and southwestern Pennsylvania
The story of Bobtown: The road to the top of the hill
A village called Brave: A history of Brave, Pennsylvania

Vermont

Benson, Hubbardton and Sudbury cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Brandon cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Castleton cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Chittenden, Mendon, Pittsfield and Sherburne cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Clarendon and Shrewsbury cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Danby and Mount Tabor cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Fair Haven and West Haven cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Interment records, Evergreen Cemetery, 1861-1904: Rutland, Rutland County
Middletown Springs and Ira cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Orwell cemetery inscriptions, Addison County
Pawlet cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Pittsford and Proctor cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Poultney cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Tinmouth cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Rutland cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Rutland County probate extracts, Fair Haven district, 1797-1855
Rutland County probate extracts, Rutland District
Wallingford and Mount Holly cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
Wells cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
West Rutland cemetery inscriptions, Rutland County
The women and children of Poultney, Rutland County fleeing Burgoyne's forces, 6 July 1777

Virginia

1851-1870 index to Augusta County marriage Records
African-American marriage index, 1865-1899
Augusta County: With notes of interest
African-American voter registration records, 1870-1920, Staunton and Augusta County
Cemeteries, Botetourt County
Cemetery records, Wise County
Cohabitation lists of former slaves in Goochland, Hanover and Louisa counties
Colonial families of the Northern Neck of Virginia
Family graveyards in Hanover County
Maryland and Virginia convict runaways, 1725-1800
A history of Bedford County with family histories and roster of Civil War soldiers
Lee County marriage book: 1830-1853 and 1853-1884
Lee County marriage register, 1885-1914
Marriage records of Gloucester County, 1853-1895
Russell County cemeteries
Tazewell County cemeteries
Tazewell County death register
Wills of Pittsylvania County
The Wise County death register, 1856-1894

West Virginia

Pocahontas & Randolph counties: Compiled from early historical writings

Wisconsin

Indians from New York in Wisconsin and elsewhere: A genealogy reference

Military

1883 military pensioners: Updated index of Northwest Ohio
Blue lightning: Wilder's Mounted Infantry Brigade in the Battle of Chickamauga
Campaigns of the Army of the Northwest, 1812-1813: A brief history
The Civil War journals of Darius W. Baird: A Northwest Ohio soldier
Civil War memories
Hungarian émigrés in the American Civil War
Illinois's war: The Civil War in documents
Indiana's war: The Civil War in documents
The long road home: Ten thousand miles through the Confederacy with the 68th Ohio
Yankee Tigers II: Civil War field correspondence from the Tiger Regiment of Ohio

Reference
AARP genealogy online: Tech to connect
Birth, marriage and death records: A guide for family historians
Family history: Digging deeper
Family photo detective: Learn how to find genealogy clues in old photos…
Fashionable folks: Hairstyles, 1840-1900
The genealogist's internet, 5th ed.

Native Americans
1932 Hopi and Navajo Native American census with birth and death rolls (1925-1931)
Applications for enrollment of Chickasaw Newborn Act of 1905
Cherokee genealogy research
The complete Seminole
Old world roots of the Cherokee

Germany
Ahnentafels: Ancestral charts for families of German heritage

Ireland
Tracing your Irish and British roots

Huguenots
Fifth revised editions of Huguenot ancestors: With names of members…
Register of qualified Huguenot ancestors of the National Huguenot Society
Tracing your Huguenot ancestors: a guide for family historians

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Akron Council of PTAs for scrapbooks and documents of the Akron Council of PTAs.

John Backderf for *Akron Daily Argus* newspaper, July 27, 1874.

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for *Fire, Cake and Water: The Connecticut Infantry at the Valley Forge Encampment; Revolutionary Patriots of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; Revolutionary War Veterans of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania; What Can't Brave Americans Endure;* and *America's Women in the Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790,* in memory of Catherine Elizabeth Ebbert Macey and Catherine Elizabeth Macey.

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for thirty-one genealogy books from the libraries of Catherine Elizabeth Ebbert Macey and Catherine Elizabeth Macey.

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for *Mother Bedford and the American Revolution; Revolutionary War Pensions; and Virginia Soldiers of 1775, volumes 1-3.*

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Fred Hone Family for *Beacon Magazine, June, 1873.*

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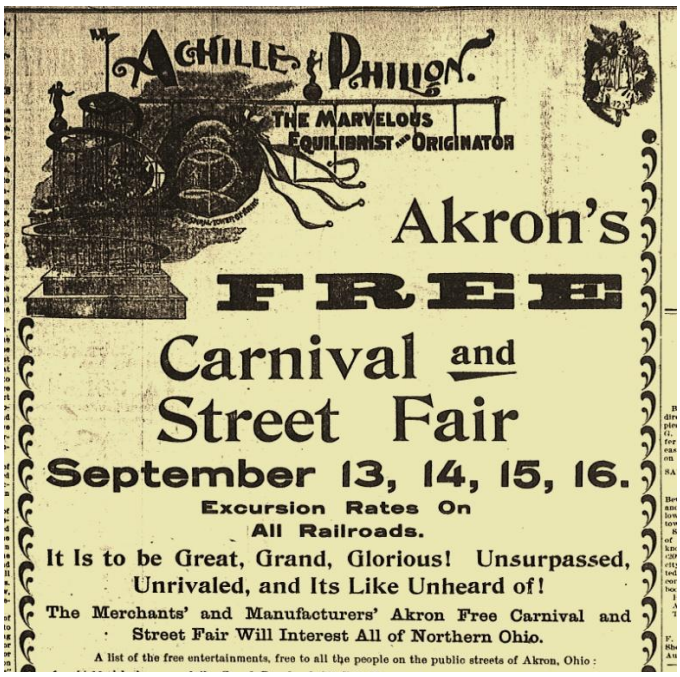
Ohio Genealogical Society for five Akron high school yearbooks.

Elizabeth Sandwick for historical materials about Loew's and Akron Civic Theatre.

Rex Wiggers for *War Behind the Lines: The Civil War History of the 115th Ohio Infantry Regiment, 1862-1865.*

Bits & Bygones:
Snippets from Another Era


ACHILLE PHILION.
THE MARVELOUS EQUILIBRIST AND ORIGINATOR
Akron's
FREE
Carnival and
Street Fair
September 13, 14, 15, 16.
Excursion Rates On
All Railroads.
It Is to be Great, Grand, Glorious! Unsurpassed, Unrivaled, and Its Like Unheard of!
The Merchants' and Manufacturers' Akron Free Carnival and Street Fair Will Interest All of Northern Ohio.
A list of the free entertainments, free to all the people on the public streets of Akron, Ohio :

This enthusiastic advertisement for a late summer street fair appeared in the Akron Beacon Journal *on August 22, 1899. Special Collections holds photos of Achille Philion's appearance at the fair.*

Special Collections Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44326

The Akron-Summit County Public Library
Special Collections Division
is located on the third floor
of the Main Library.

Special Collections
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